

This narrative history of a Residential School was researched and produced by the Government of Canada as part of its response to litigation and the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation has not verified the content of this document. It is provided here for reference purposes only. Documented incidents of sexual and physical abuse are based on the documentary record and do not take into account survivor testimony.



You are welcome to contact the NCTR if you wish to add, comment on, or challenge any versions of the history presented herein.

BISHOP HORDEN HALL **IAP School Narrative**

NAME IN THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Schedule E/F)

Bishop Horden Hall (Moose Fort, Moose Factory)

OTHER NAMES KNOWN AS (AKAs)

1907 to 1922	Moose Fort Boarding School [MFI-000057; MFI-000071]
1907 to 1919	Moose Factory Boarding School [MFI-000147; MFI-000167; MFI-000175]
1923 to 1964	Moose Fort Indian Residential School [MFI-000072; MFI-000786-0000; MFI-000020; MFI-000307]
1937 to 1955	Bishop Horden Memorial School; Bishop Horden Memorial Indian Residential School [MFI-000786-0000; MFI-000887; MFI-000307]
1931, 1941, 1947	Moose Factory Indian Residential School [MFI-000202; MFI-000796]
1964 to 1968	Horden Hall/Horden Hall Hostel [MFI-000725; MFI-000723; MFI-000036; MFI-001146, pg. 6]
1968 to 1976	Horden Hall Student Residence [MFI-000037; MFI-000080-0000]

LOCATION

Moose Island, southern end of James Bay, Northern Ontario [MFI-000059]

PROVINCE/TERRITORY

Ontario

OPERATING DATES AS AN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

July 1, 1906 to June 30 1976

As of September 1, 1964, Bishop Horden (Moose Fort) IRS became Horden Hall and was a Hostel/residence only [MFI-000726; MFI-000723; MFI-001146, pg. 6]

OPERATING DATES CONTEXT

The Moose Fort Boarding school opened on September 1, 1905, did not receive federal grants to until July 1, 1906 [MFI-000129; MFI-000131; MFI-000147; MFI-001090]. On September 1, 1964, the responsibility for classes conducted in the IRS classroom block was transferred to the Moose Factory Island Public School Board, of which the IRS administrator was a member, and the residence portion of the IRS became a hostel named Horden Hall [MFI-000727; MFI-000728; MFI-000725; MFI-001146, pg. 6]. On April 1, 1969 the management of Horden Hall, was transferred from the Anglican Church to the Federal Government [MFI-000078-0000, pg. 5]. The student residence closed on June 30, 1976, and the building was no longer required by the Department of Indian Affairs. [MFI-000080-0000; MFI-000813-0001; NCA-012214-0001; NCA-017711].

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Anglican Church

1906 to 1969 Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada (M.S.C.C.)/
 Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada
 [MFI-000131; MFI-001090;NCA-001703-0001; MFI-000078-0000,
 pg. 5]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Date	Event	Document Reference
July 1, 1906	From July 1, 1906 the Government provided grants to the Missionary Society of the Church of England for the operation of the Moose Fort Boarding School.	MFI-000129 MFI-000131 MFI-000147 MFI-000056
April 1, 1911	Operational Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Bishop of the Diocese of Moosonee for the management of the Moose Fort Boarding School.	MFI-000840
1937	The Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada (M.S.C.C.) constructed a new residential school building, a new Cottage Hospital, and an annex to the new main residence building that contained two classrooms.	MFI-000786-0000 MFI-000786-0002 MFI-000785-0000
1943	When the Anglican school at Fort George was destroyed by fire, it was approved that Inuit students could attend Moose Fort IRS until the school was rebuilt. Moose Fort IRS also admitted Inuit students who were in Moose Factory for Hospitalization.	MFI-000899 MFI-000223
1946 to 1947	The Government provided grants to the school for the "maintenance of destitute Eskimo children".	MFI-000887 MFI-000888
March 1949	The Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada accepted the offer of DIAND to purchase the Moose Factory Residential School. The purchase of the Residential School had been recommended to the Governor General in Council by the Minister of Mines and Resources.	MFI-000731-0000 MFI-000730
1950	The Kindergarten and Primary rooms were being conducted in part of the IRS dining room.	MFI-000361
February 22, 1955	The M.S.C.C. informed the Government that in Church publications and correspondence the name "Bishop Horden Memorial School" would be discontinued and replaced by "Moose Fort Indian Residential School."	MFI-000307
March 26, 1959	A Monthly Report of Classes in Practical Arts noted that nine children from the "village day school" attended classes in Home Economics at the Moose Fort IRS.	MFI-001930
May 1962	Operational Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada for the management and operation of Moose Fort Indian Residential School.	NCA-001703-0001
April 24, 1962	A memorandum from the head of the Indian Affairs Education Division indicates that the Ontario Department of Education turned down the proposal to amalgamate the classrooms of the Moose Fort Residential School with the Moose Factory Island Public School.	MFI-000293

April 1963	On April 5, Department officials sent a letter advising the Moose Factory Island Public School Board, of which a Federal Government official was a member, that if needed one classroom in the basement of the classroom block was available to them for the 1963/64 school year, and that one or two additional classrooms could be built in the remaining basement space if necessary. The Principal of the IRS agreed with the proposal of making classrooms available to the Board for 1963/64.	MFI-000823 MFI-000824 MFI-000820 MFI-000822
1963-1964	The Moose Factory Island Public School Board began using IRS classrooms during the 1963/64 school year, though the exact date this practice began could not be located. A November 1963 Voucher for janitorial services indicates that 3 classrooms of the Moose Factory Island Public School were being held in Moose Fort Residential School.	MFI-008098
January 3, 1964	The Indian Affairs Regional Supervisor requested that amalgamation of the Moose Factory schools be deferred until September of 1964.	MFI-000242
February 11, 1964	As of February, one Moose Fort IRS student was attending grade eight classes at the Moose Factory Public School. It was agreed that for the next school year, any students from the IRS in grades 7 and 8 would be accommodated in the public school classrooms.	MFI-000729
March 18, 1964	The Moose Factory Island Public School Board passed a motion approving the takeover of responsibility for the operation of all remaining classrooms in the classroom block at Moose Fort.	MFI-000727
April to September 1964	In April 1964, the Government approved of the amalgamation of the IRS classrooms with those of the public school and indicated that a formal agreement would be forwarded. The Public School Board, of which the IRS administrator was a member, would be responsible for all classroom education on Moose Factory Island. The amalgamation of classrooms was effective September 1, 1964, and Moose Fort IRS became the Horden Hall Hostel.	MFI-000726 MFI-001146, pg. 6 MFI-000723 MFI-000728
October 14, 1964	Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Board of School Trustees of the Moose Factory Island Public School for the Board to provide classroom instruction at the Moose Factory Island Public School to all children living at Horden Hall and all children residing within Moose Factory Island Indian Reserve No. 1.	MFI-008099
October 1964	75 pupils from grade 3 - 6 at Horden Hall would now be provided with a part time teacher counsellor. Two additional study supervisors began work on October 13, 1964.	MFI-000710 MFI-000239
August 1, 1968	Government Circular dated June 12, 1968 advised Principals and Administrators of residential schools and hostels that the name "Residential School" would be replaced by "Student Residence." Schools were advised to change over by August 1, though some schools were already using the title. Returns for the quarters ending June and September 1968 note the name change from Horden Hall to Horden Hall Student Residence.	GUY-000440 MFI-000036 MFI-000037
April 1, 1969	The management of Horden Hall was transferred from the Anglican Church to the Federal Government.	MFI-000078-0000, pg. 5
1974 to 1975	Government entered into a service contract from April 1974 to March 1975 with the Anglican Church of Canada for liaison duties for student residences, including Horden Hall Student Residence.	MFI-000755-0000 MFI-000755-0001

June 30, 1976	Horden Hall Student Residence closed. The Department of Public Works was advised that the residential school block was surplus to Departmental requirements effective July 1, 1976.	MFI-000080-0000 MFI-000813-0000 MFI-000813-0001 MFI-000845 MFI-000846 MFI-000844
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EDUCATION OF STUDENTS

Grades taught at the Indian residential school

The Government of Canada approved of the takeover of the IRS classrooms by Moose Factory Island Public School Board effective September 1, 1964. Effective that date, the Board, of which the Student Residence Administrator was a member, would be responsible for all classroom education on Moose Factory Island [MFI-000727; MFI-000726; MFI-000728; MFI-001146, pg. 6; MFI-000723].

School Years	Grades offered	Document Reference
1906 to 1907	Grade 1	MFI-001090
1907 to 1935	Grades 1 to 6	CJC-000364; MFI-000058 pg. 2; MFI-000066 pg. 2; MFI-000075 pg. 2; ELK-000488 pg. 3; ELK-000492 pg. 3
1935 to 1939	Grades 1 to 8	MFI-000993 pg. 2; MFI-000996 pg. 2
1939 to 1941	No information found	No documents found
1941 to 1944	Grades 1 to 8; one high school student, grade not specified.	MFI-000102; MFI-000110
1944 to 1948	Grades 1 to 8	MFI-000114; MFI-000126
1948 to 1950	Kindergarten to Grade 8	MFI-000130; MFI-000135
1950 to 1951	Grades 1 to 7	MFI-000139
1951 to 1952	Grades 1 to 8	MFI-000143
1952 to 1956	Kindergarten – Grade 8	MFI-000863
1956 to 1959	Kindergarten – Grade 7	MFI-001942-0001; MFI-000284
1959 to 1963	Beginner – Grade 6*	MFI-000003; MFI-000015
1963 to 1964	Beginner – Grade 7	MFI-000019

* As early as 1952 it was recommended that three Moose Fort Indian Residential School students be transferred to Shingwauk Indian Residential School to attend high school in the local community [MFI-001688]. In 1958 the Principal of Moose Fort IRS requested that he be able to offer high school classes on a limited basis and scale back on the number of students being sent to Shingwauk IRS [MFI-000095]. However, in a letter dated April 8, 1959, the Principal of the Moose Fort IRS noted that “our present policy is to transfer our students to Shingwauk School as soon as they reach Grade 7 level. At Shingwauk they reside in the Residential School but attend Public School in company with the local Sault children” [MFI-000284]. Please note that Grade 7 residents reappear on Quarterly Returns for Moose Fort IRS in 1963/64, and grade 8 students reappear on Quarterly Returns in 1965/66 [For example: MFI-000017, pg 1, 6; MFI-000027, pg. 7].

Other Schools Attended by Residents

School Years	Name of School	Location	Administration	Grades	Document
1906-1907	Moose Factory Day School	Moose Factory Island, ON			MFI-000129
1908-1910	Moose Day School/Moose Fort Day School (constructed in 1908)	Moose Factory Island, ON			MFI-000077 MFI-000151
1963 to 1976	Moose Factory Island Public	Moose Factory	Moose Factory Island School Board	K – 8	MFI-000729 MFI-008099

	School	Island, ON			
1967	Horden Public School				MFI-000237

An Anglican Church Day School had been in operation at Moose Fort before the opening of the Bishop's Boarding School in 1906 [MFI-000129]. The Boarding School students attended classes at the Day School from the opening of the Boarding School until an unknown date. The Day School operated in a separate building until an unknown date as a separate entity, appearing in the Department of Indian Affairs Annual Reports as late as 1939 [FGA-000524, pg. 4]. The Day School filed Quarterly Returns separate from those of the Boarding School/IRS. The Missionary Society of the Church of England had determined in 1936 to build a new residential school and separate day school for 1937 [AAC-092943]. In December 1937, a new residential school was constructed at Moose Fort and included a two-storey annex containing two classrooms [MFI-000786-0000]. The annex was a staff building relocated from the old boarding school. Research could not determine if the two classrooms in the annex replaced or were an addition to the existing classroom building. In 1938, the Principal of the IRS was referred to as the Principal of the Indian Day School [MFI-001039].

An internal Departmental memorandum, dated January 11, 1967 states that all residential pupils attend Horden Public School [MFI-000237]. No further documents naming this school were located. During this period, Horden Hall residents attended Moose Factory Island Public School.

GENERAL ENROLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Years	Number of Residents	If applicable, day scholars	Document Reference
1906 to 1927	25 (average)		MFI-000131; MFI-000840 MFI-000066; MFI-000069; MFI-000189
1927 to 1931	30 (average)		ELK-000485 pg. 2 ELK-000488 pg. 3
1931 to 1932	30 authorized enrolment, 37 on April 1, 1932		MFI-000204 MFI-000207
1932 to November 1937	37 (average)		ELK-000490 MFI-000995
December 1937 to 1938	100 authorized enrolment		MFI-000402-0002
1938 to 1943	95 (average)		MFI-000407-0004 MFI-000411-0004
1943 to 1944	78 (average)		MFI-000565
1944 to 1945	37.2 (average)		MFI-000114
1945 to 1946	75.89 (average)		MFI-000118
1946 to 1947	63.04 (average)		MFI-000123
1947 1948	100 Authorized Enrolment		MFI-000978-0001
1948 to 1949	94.74 (average)		MFI-000130
1949 to 1950	104	40 Treaty Indians, 30 non-Treaty pupils	MFI-000361, pgs. 3-4
1950 to 1951	92 (average)		MFI-000139
1951 to 1952	132		MFI-000398
1952 to 1953	107	79	MFI-000863
1953 to 1954	136	71	MFI-000867
1954 to 1955	190		MFI-000862 June

1955 to 1956	200 authorized enrolment		MFI-000254 pg. 1
1956 to 1957	233		MFI-000267
1957 to 1958	251 (authorized enrolment)		MFI-000282
1958 to 1959	245 (average)	Class list indicates that students from the village day school attended classes at the IRS	MFI-000416-0001 MFI-001930 pg. 1
1959 to 1960	250	Letter from the principal refers to public school students attending vocational training at the residence.	MFI-000003 MFI-001083
1960 to 1963	245 (average)		MFI-000007; MFI-000015
1963 to 1965	200 (average)		MFI-000019; MFI-000023
1965 to 1976	107 (average)		MFI-000026; MFI-000031 MFI-000035; MFI-000039 MFI-000043; MFI-000050 MFI-000052; MFI-003551 MFI-000745; MFI-000055

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

School Years	Special Programs Offered	Document Reference
1910	Farming, domestic chores, football, rowing, canoeing, skating, sliding, snowshoeing	MFI-000060
January 1947 to 1949	Boys participated in trapping trips and tallyman work.	MFI-000826 CGY-081367 pg. 9
1948	Student's Council	AAC-084490 pg. 7
1950 to 1951	Scouts, Brownies, Guides, choir and sewing classes	MFI-001036, pg. 3
1957	School choir travelled to Cochrane for a music festival	MFI-000264-0001
1957 to 1958	Supervised homework sessions	MFI-000275 pg. 1 MFI-000095 MFI-000094
1957 to 1960	Manual (Vocational) Training, Home Economics, Music and Art are taught	MFI-000274-0003 MFI-000292
March 1960	Arrangements were made to accommodate public school students, Grades 8-10, in the vocational training program at the residential school as of September 1960.	MFI-000292 MFI-001083
1966 to 1967	An after school program is in operation for the residential students who all attend the public school. A "Littles Group" is held for 5 and 6 year olds. Cubs are offered to the Intermediate boys. A program in Art is offered. A Catechists Training Program is held at the school during the summer. A 60 piece orchestra from Toronto played in the auditorium. The Centennial Performers put on 2 variety shows for the children.	MFI-000237 ACC-001851 pg. 21 ACC-001851 pg. 22

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Date	Event	Document Reference
1905	A Boarding School was in operation at Moose Fort since at least September 1905.	MFI-000131
1910 to 1911	The boarding school, originally built as the Bishop's residence, contained ten rooms and an attic. The children of the boarding school attended classes at the day school. The school was located on Moose Island and consisted of 10 acres of leased land from the Hudson's Bay Company, in the "unorganized district of Algoma."	MFI-000059 MFI-000060 MFI-000151
1912 to 1914	There was a hospital at Moose Fort, located in a separate building with room for six to eight patients.	MFI-000061 MFI-000063
1914	The boarding school had 2 stories, 40 x 50 ft, a Principal's house 30 x 30 ft, a cottage hospital, carpenter's shop, engine house, cow stable, woodshed.	MFI-000063
1931	The former hospital building near the school was used as the residence for the Principal and his family.	MFI-000202 MFI-000204
1933	Moose Fort IRS is located on Moose Island in the District of Cochrane, parcels 1652 and 1653. Title to this property is transferred to the Bishop of Moosonee in February but is forfeited if the Bishop of Moosonee tries to sell or convey the land. Sale of the property includes school, hospital, employee's residence, stables, pump house and store house.	MFI-000731-0000 MFI-000731-0001 MFI-000731-0002 MFI-000736
1935 to 1936	During the year, a small hospital associated with the school was constructed. The funding for construction of the hospital came from the Nurse Neville Trust Fund.	MFI-000401-0002
1937	The Missionary Society of the Church of England constructed a new residential school at their own expense based on a pre-approved per capita grant of 100 pupils. The Government contributed desks and blackboards. The buildings were officially occupied December 29 and included a two-storey annex. On the ground floor the annex contained the laundry, the boys and girls washrooms, and the boys recreation room. The second storey consisted of two large classrooms. The annex was connected to the main building by a twenty foot long closed and covered passageway.	MFI-000777 MFI-000778 MFI-000785-0000 MFI-000785-0001 MFI-000786-0000 MFI-000786-0001 MFI-000786-0002 MFI-000402-0002
March 1949	In a report from the residential school to the government dated March 15, the author refers to a fire the previous Saturday which destroyed the drugs necessary to treat the students who were ill with influenza. However, emergency supplies of the drug were obtained.	MFI-000569
1949	An Indian Affairs official recommended that Moose Fort Residential School be used strictly as a Hostel and that a separate building be constructed for classrooms. As it was presently configured, a dormitory had been converted into a "sub-standard classroom." and it was recommended that it be restored to its original purpose.	MFI-000569
1950	Title of the land which Moose Fort IRS occupies is vested in the Bishop of Moosonee under a grant from the Hudson's Bay Company. Title is re-vested in the Hudson's Bay Company should the land no longer be used for Church purposes.	MFI-000452
1951	The Government purchased Moose Fort Indian Residential School from the Bishop of Moosonee (the M.S.C.C.) by Order in Council P.C. 1445 dated March 22, 1951. The land and its buildings are conveyed back to the Hudson's Bay Company and then conveyed to the Government as part of the purchase in an agreement dated October 2, 1951. A Transfer of Land document confirms this purchase.	MFI-000385 MFI-000395 MFI-000396 MFI-000456 MFI-000452 MFI-000813-0003 MFI-000813-0004
1952	Order in Council P.C. 24/2561 of May 1, 1952 granted authority for the purchase of the former hospital building from the M.S.C.C. for use as a residence for the Principal of the Moose Fort School.	MFI-000475
1952 to 1954	A new dormitory block was completed at the school. Plans were also underway for the construction of a second dormitory, and once it was constructed the other dormitory would be	MFI-000498 MFI-000484

	converted to classroom facilities. With the completion of the additional dormitory block, the dormitory constructed in 1953 would be used exclusively for classroom facilities. The old residential school building would also be dismantled.	MFI-000323
1955 to 1956	Approval for construction of a new dormitory block at Moose Fort IRS was provided by Treasury Board in May 1955. The building was completed by September 1956.	MFI-000346 MFI-000742
1956	Plans were in place to convert the old dormitory block into a classroom block. It was proposed to construct a separate vocational training building.	MFI-000333
1957	The old residential school building was partially demolished; documentation does not confirm when the demolition was fully complete.	MFI-000090 p. 3 MFI-000091 MFI-000093
1959	An internal Departmental memorandum dated April 21, refers to measures taken to alleviate overcrowded classrooms. It is recommended that a second classroom be set up in the basement.	MFI-000305
1973 to 1976	Three "self-contained cottage units" were in operation as of October 1973 to address the high cost of operating the residence due to lower enrolment. They were located within the residence building itself. The wings of the building were "used for sleeping and recreation by the cottage units." The "parts of the building presently being used as cottage units are divided up by temporary walls which can easily be knocked down."	MFI-000078-0000, pgs. 3, 9-11; MFI-000845; MFI-000080-0001, pgs. 4-6
1976	Horden Hall Student Residence closed on June 30, 1976. The Department of Public Works was advised that the residential school block was surplus to Departmental requirements effective July 1, 1976. After Horden Hall's closure, the Moose Factory Band requested that the Government transfer the building to them for use. At that time the custodians of the property were the Department of Public Works. The Band's request was denied, due to the high operating cost of building and the Hudson Bay Company's rights preventing anyone else from using the building for commercial purposes. The Band's request for surplus furnishings from Horden Hall was recommended for approval by the Government. The items were to be used in operation of group homes called the Moose Band Student Care Service. The Department of Public Works notified the Department of Indian Affairs that until an end use for the surplus Horden Hall property was determined they would not take over maintenance responsibilities of the building. Indian Affairs was to maintain the property until interest from other parties could be ascertained, and if no one wanted the property then Indian Affairs could dispose of it.	MFI-000080-0000 MFI-000813-0000 MFI-000813-0001 MFI-000845 MFI-000846 MFI-000844 MFI-000810-0000 MFI-000810-0001 MFI-000804-0001 NCA-012214-0000 NCA-012214-0001 MFI-000809
1978	A draft letter noted that though a consultant evaluated the residence building and the concept for a 14 classroom school with a gymnasium, conditions imposed by the Moose Factory Public School Board for the facility could not all be met. The committee recommended that the building return to surplus status.	MFI-000804-0001

PHOTOS, PLANS AND LAYOUT

Date	Description	Document Reference
December 1931	Sketch of existing and proposed girls and boys dormitories.	MFI-000206-0001
May 1933	Site plan providing the location of the both the dormitory building and the proposed new dormitory building.	MFI-002534

1937	The ground floor of the annex contained a laundry room, boys and girls washrooms and a boy's recreation room. The second floor contained two very large classrooms. There was a closed and covered 20 foot passageway between the annex and the main building. The ground floor of the main school building contained a chapel, playrooms, dining rooms, hall, kitchen, storeroom and dairy. The first floor contained dormitories for junior girls and boys, principal's office, staff lounge, bedrooms, guest room, washroom and Supervisor's room. The second floor contained two dormitories for senior boys and girls and supervisor's room. The top floor or attic contained a sewing room and a large recreation room for the girls. Adjacent was the Bishop Newnham Memorial Cottage Hospital, also owned and operated by the Church.	MFI-000777 MFI-000778 MFI-000785-0000 MFI-000785-0001 MFI-000786-0000 MFI-000786-0001 MFI-000786-0002 MFI-000402-0002
August 1937	Photograph of new cottage hospital, the annex containing classrooms and the residential school building.	MFI-000785-0001 pg. 2
August 1951	Photograph of the residential school and annex. The newspaper extract includes a photograph of the large new hospital and a portion of the St. Thomas Anglican church	MFI-001081
1951	Transfer of Land pertaining to Hudson's Bay Company sale of lots 1, 4 and 11 on Factory Island, with survey plans	MFI-000813-0004, pg. 3, 4
February 1953	Site plan for proposed new dormitory building	MFI-002546
1955	Description of the IRS property, including information about buildings and landmarks in proximity to the property	MFI-000313-0000
July 1955	Foundation diagram for the dormitory block.	MFI-000314-0003
July 1955	Plans that include the location of the new dormitory block, and the plans for the proposed garage and repair shop.	MFI-002533
February 1956	Floor plans showing upper plant room, basement floor plan and section diagrams of dormitory block at Moose Factory Indian Residential School.	MFI-002539
February 1956	First floor plan of the dormitory block	MFI-002538
May 1956	Photographs of the exterior of the new dormitory building, and recreation room	MFI-000342
September 1956	Preliminary drawings for the proposed new school at Moose Factory	MFI-000081-0001
January 1957	Site plan of Moose Factory School showing existing buildings and proposed new developments.	MFI-0002536
June 1957	Diagram illustrating basement, first and second floors of new dormitory block	MFI-001185
1975	Site plan showing layout of new boundary fence at the Moose Factory dormitory block	MFI-001178-0002
1976	Diagram illustrating the land up for disposal at Horden Hall	MFI-000812-0001

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at Moose Fort IRS or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

The following suggestions of abuse, listed chronologically, comprise all known identifiable complaints and/or allegations received by government officials and all available information regarding the follow-up and outcome.

Incidents (Physical)

1912 The Matron of the Moose Fort IRS alleged that the Principal had "cruelly
Bishop Horden Hall

whipped" two girls at the school. While no evidence of an official investigation exists, church authorities investigated the issue, and exonerated the principal, laying blame on a poor relationship between the principal and the matron. The matron and a teacher resigned. The Principal remained on staff as indicated in the Department of Indian Affairs Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 1913. [MFI-000157; MFI-000158; MFI-000159; MFI-000160; MFI-000161; MFI-000162; MFI-000163; MFI-000062, pg. 3]

1949 In a letter of March 2, the Superintendent of the James Bay Indian Agency, requested an RCMP investigation into allegations that the Principal had "severely strapped" two students. A medical investigation and RCMP investigation were carried out and no charges were laid. Following the investigation, the Department issued instructions with regard to corporal punishment. When questioned about the incident, the district nurse stated that she "noticed the patients there are very thin, and I do believe that these children are not being cared for properly due to the number of children who are becoming ill there." [MFI-000909; MFI-000913-0000; MFI-000913-0001; MFI-000910; MFI-000912]

1956 On July 13 the Superintendent of the Abitibi Indian Agency informed the Government of accusations of ill treatment of Mistassini children at the Moose Fort IRS. The allegations included physical abuse and inadequate provision of food. The Superintendent of the James Bay Indian Agency and the Principal of the school denied the charges. [MFI-000914; MFI-000743-0000; MFI-000743-0001; MFI-000743-0002; MFI-000743-0003]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DIAND Annual Reports of 1910 to 1912 note the presence of tuberculosis, influenza and Pleurisy at the school. [MFI-000059; MFI-000060; MFI-000061]

1919 Seven boys from the boarding school drowned when their canoe overturned on the Moose River [MFI-000170; MFI-000176-0000; MFI-000176-0001]

1921 The principal committed suicide after he suffered a shoulder injury and "lay for weeks without medical attendance, the nearest doctor being at Cochrane 180 miles distant" [MFI-000179; MFI-000180]

Several students were very badly affected by tuberculosis and Gland Trouble. One student died of TB and another was paralyzed. One student was placed in a tent and not expected to live much longer. All students and new admissions were examined by a doctor. [MFI-000180]

1930 A student died of tuberculosis. [MFI-001237-0001]

The Department approved the admission of two children aged 3 and 5. Approval was granted to include them on quarterly returns. The principal felt the 3 year old was too young, was of ill health and would require too much special attention. (The admission of the 5 year old is shown on an Admission/Discharge of pupils forms dated March 31). [MFI-001233; MFI-001235-0000; MFI-001237-0001]

1933 Two male students died of tuberculosis [MFI-001347]

1940 Two male students died of Tubercular Meningitis. The doctor stated "the present spread of tuberculosis in the school is the aftermath of the influenza epidemic the past winter..." The Indian Agent reported that one boy's family was "not notified of sickness or death of child as there was no way to send word." [MFI-001041-0003; MFI-001042-0002]

1941 A female student died of Generalized Tuberculosis. Two students died from of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. [MFI-001043-0002; MFI-001043-0004; MFI-001044-0004; MFI-001045-0004]

On November 18, 1941 a school girl developed symptoms which were diagnosed as Typhoid Fever. Water samples from a tap in the school were tested and found to be contaminated with a high count of colon bacilli. In December, the Provincial Sanitary Inspector located the source of typhoid as coming from the river and issued a boil water advisory. Reference was made to several reports from other Doctors and Sanitary Inspectors who all agreed the water was contaminated and recommended a chlorinating device be used at the pumps. One doctor recommended that the school children be vaccinated against Typhoid. [MFI-000796] In 1943 the Minister authorized expenditure to purchase a chlorinating unit for the school and recommended approval. [MFI-000795; MFI-000797; MFI-000799]

1942 Two students died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis [MFI-001050-0005; MFI-001046-0002]

1943 A female student died of Acute Pulmonary Tuberculosis. [MFI-001052-0003]

1945 A male student died of Tuberculosis Meningitis [MFI-001056-0005; MFI-001056-0003]

1946 A female student died of Tuberculosis Meningitis on December 24. [MFI-001065-0003; MFI-001065-0004]

1948 A male student died of Tuberculosis. [MFI-007743-0001; MFI-007743-0003]

In May, the Superintendent of the M.S.C.C. reported that staff at the Newnham Hospital and Horden School were found to be carriers of the typhoid and diphtheria germs. This resulted in long periods of isolation for affected staff. Assistance was provided by the Department of Health and Welfare at Moose Factory and Indian Health Services [MFI-000979, pgs. 2-3; MFI-000977, pg. 6]

1949 On March 15 seventy pupils were confined to bed with influenza. Some of the staff were affected and off duty, resulting in the suspension of classroom activity. Though a previous fire had destroyed the school drug supply, emergency supplies were obtained. The layout of the school and the overcrowded dormitories made isolating and caring for the sick difficult. [MFI-000569]

1950 In a letter dated December 11 the A/Medical Superintendent, Moose Factory Indian Hospital, informed the Director, Indian Health Services, that the septic tank was a continuing and serious health hazard at the Moose Fort IRS. He claimed that “[u]nless something is done about this the health of the children in this building will be poor. Already we have again had to hospitalize a number of them for rashes due to uncleanliness and I expect this will go through the winter.” [MFI-000376-0001]

1951 A male student died of Tuberculosis Meningitis. [MFI-001067-0003]

1957 The Principal of the Moose Fort IRS instructed the teachers to ensure that the children were “to speak English at all times in the school.” [MFI-000275 pg. 1]

During the last week in September and the first 2 weeks in October, classes were delayed due to a flu epidemic. [MFI-000274-0000]

1965 A measles epidemic broke out at the residence at the end of June. Approximately forty pupils who had not contracted the disease were to remain at the school during the summer until they had contracted the disease, as a measure to stop the spread of the measles to home communities. Supervisory staff was to leave for the summer while authorization was granted to hire two Aboriginal high school students – a male and a female - to act as supervisors for the summer. [MFI-000662; MFI-000653]

A letter of condolence from the Regional Superintendent of Schools was sent to the parents of a deceased male student. [MFI-000819]

1967 School staff received instruction in Cree once a week. [ACC-001851 pg. 21]

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Rev. Claude D. Ovens	Principal	1906 to 1907
Rev. A. McLain Banting	Principal	1907 to 1908
Rev. Ernest O. Duke	Principal	1908 to 1910
Archdeacon R.J. Renison	Acting Principal	1910 to 1911
Rev. W. Haythornethwaite	Principal	1911 to 1921
Rev. John T. Griffin	Acting Principal Principal	1916 to 1917 1921 to 1926
Rev. J.A. Maggrah	Principal	1926 to 1929
Rev. Joseph Blackburn	Acting Principal Principal	1929 to 1930 1930 to 1932
Rev. Gilbert Thompson	Acting Principal Principal	1933 to 1934 1934 to 1945
Rev. Henry G. Cook	Principal Missionary/Chaplain	1945 to 1948 1947 to 1948
Herbert E. Taylor	Acting Principal Principal	1947 to 1948 1948 to 1949
John Long	Acting Principal	1949
Donald Hester	Principal	1950
Rev. Harold Seegmiller	Principal	October 1950 to June 30 1952
Rev. H.S. Shepherd	Principal	1952 to July 31, 1954
Eric L. Barrington	Principal	September 1954 to January 1956
Rev. Alan Wheatley	Principal	1955 to 1962
Noel Goater	Principal Administrator	April 1962 to May 31 1965 Sept 1964 to 1965
Vernon Murray Telford	Principal, acting administrator and assistant administrator	1964 to August 1965
Robert Martin	Administrator	August 1965 to July 1968
Mr. Lofthouse	Administrator	1966
Derek R. Mills	Administrator	1968 to 1969
R.K. Graham	Assistant Administrator and Residence Co-ordinator	August 1968 to September 24, 1973
Lauder R. Smith	Acting Administrator Administrator	1974 to 1975 1975 to 1976

Effective September 1, 1964 the name Moose Fort Indian Residential School was changed to Horden Hall, and the Principal's position was changed to that of an Administrator since the institution no longer provided classroom services and functioned only as a residence [MFI-000724].

Narrative Completed: September 19, 2011
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The original school narrative document produced by Canada also contains a number of records that have been separated pending review.



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